

G. Lawrence Hodges
County Coordinator

THE
B O O S T E R
LINE

George V. Blackstone
Chairman, Advisory Board

Number 272

Official Publication of the
Chautauqua County Fire Advisory Board

January 1, 1966

YOUR MISTAKES ARE VALUABLE

No one likes to admit they ever make mistakes...but firemen who can be classed as "big men" can profit from their mistakes and turn these mistakes into valuable assets.

We once heard a training instructor telling a group of firemen how he had positioned a fire truck on the downwind side of a residence that had evidence of only a small fire. An oil drum on the back porch of the house ruptured and before hose lines could be charged what was a small fire became a major conflagration. It was impossible to change lines until the fire truck was moved to a safe location.

This man was "big" enough to admit his mistake...and in telling of the mistake, he was able to point out in a forceful manner that there are no easy fires and a proper procedure should be used in attacking every fire with no exceptions.

This group of firemen could easily visualize this particular problem...and it is a safe bet they will remember this story all their lives and be better firemen for having heard a "big" man admit his mistake.

Experience is a wonderful teacher...but by the same token no fire department can sit and let its firemen become proficient through experience alone using a trial and error method. "Big" men who now lead departments can share their success and failures and make their firemen better firemen.

The men with the most practical experience are naturally the senior men in your department. This is the group that forms your retirement list...so before these men step down, let them share with your "rookies" their successes as well as their failures.

The day is gone of letting a fireman become a proficient fire fighter through experience alone...this road is much too expensive to travel and too many lives can be lost. Share successes and failures with the new members to allow them to avoid the same mistakes...this will make your entire department a better unit to better serve the community.

Your mistakes are valuable...their value rests with sharing them with others. To make a mistake and admit it is another way of saying, "I am smarter today than I was yesterday."

OUR NEIGHBORS ORDER NEW APPARATUS

Sugar Grove, Pennsylvania, who works closely with several of our own County departments, has ordered a new apparatus from the Maxim Motor Division of Middleboro, Massachusetts, at a cost of \$17,466.75. The unit will have a 750 g.p.m. single stage, centrifugal midship pump, a 1,200 gallon booster tank and a capacity for carrying 2,000 feet of 1½ and 2½ inch hose. Because of fire station space limitations, the apparatus is being designed with a special folding rear step and beaver tails. A Ford C-950 tilt-cab chassis has been selected having a 266 horsepower, 534 cubic inch engine. The apparatus color will be YELLOW.

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BOARD HOLDS ANNUAL ELECTIONS

The Chautauqua County Fire Advisory Board met in the Supervisor's Chambers on Thursday, January 20th, to conduct regular business matters and elect officers for the year. Nineteen members of the Board, six Deputy Coordinators, three members of the Supervisor's Committee, and seven guests were present at the meeting.

Officers elected for 1966 were: George V. Blackstone of Lakewood, Chairman; Richard F. Lathrop of Falconer, 1st Vice-Chairman; Earl Cross of Kennedy, 2nd Vice-Chairman; Thomas C. Bretz of Ripley, Recording Secretary; and Elliot G. Anderson of Sinclairville, Corresponding Secretary. In addition to the above named officers, the following members were appointed to the Board:

Charles L. Anderson - Mayville
Charles C. Cybulski - Dunkirk
Harold W. Eckwahl - Bemus Point
Virgil L. Eggleston - Jamestown
Raymond Harmon - Westfield
Raymond H. Hughes - Kiantone
Lloyd Johnson - Frewsburg
Donald A. Manning - Irving

Roger L. Phillips - Fluvanna
Donald Reinhoudt - Fredonia
Nicholas A. Rizzo - Portland
Eldred Roush - Clymer
Howard K. Samuelson - Gerry
Ralph E. Sandquist - Busti
Ivan I. Velzy - Silver Creek
John M. Washington - Cassadaga

During the business session, Neil McNeight, Deputy Training Coordinator, reported that the Essentials of Firemanship Course recently started at Hartfield attracted 18 students, three of which are firewomen from the local Department. Dr. William H. Hall, Jr., Deputy Medical Coordinator, requested that all firemen check their First Aid cards to make sure they are current, otherwise a refresher course would be indicated. A discussion was held on the Underwriters' Laboratories certification of fire apparatus which is now required in New York State by the Rating Organization. Such certification must be conducted at the apparatus manufacturer's plant prior to delivery if full rating is desired by the customer.

OUR ROVING REPORTER NOTES

That at three major fires we recently attended, firemen were not wearing protective clothing, and at one in particular, the Chief in command repeatedly entered the burning building without even a helmet. There may not always be enough coats, boots and helmets for every fireman in an emergency, but those actively engaged must protect themselves from falling objects, possible explosion and all types of injuries.

That the Cassadaga Fire Department Emergency Squad recently placed in service a new four patient, Superior ambulance at a cost of \$8,700. The unit is constructed on a 1965 Pontiac Bonneville chassis.

COORDINATOR IN HOSPITAL

County Fire Coordinator, G. Lawrence Hodges, is currently a patient in the W.C.A. Hospital having suffered a heart condition. Our thoughts are with you Larry, and we wish you a very speedy recovery.

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ANNUAL ALARM REPORT SUBMITTED

The annual Alarm Report for 1965 has been submitted by Deputy Co-ordinator John Gollnitz. This Report is compiled from records kept at the County Fire Control Center, and the figures include both the cities of Dunkirk and Jamestown.

In the table below, Fire Alarms indicate all actual runs made to extinguish fires. Non-Fire Emergencies include all runs made to assist the public such as resuscitator calls, highway accidents, rescue calls, searching for missing persons, etc. Requests for Mutual Aid may be for Fire or Non-Fire Emergencies and indicates the number of times more than one Fire Department responded to a specific emergency or fire.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>FIRE ALARMS</u>	<u>NON-FIRE EMERGENCIES</u>	<u>REQUESTS FOR MUTUAL AID</u>
January	108	109	14
February	88	87	7
March	66	108	7
April	209	129	10
May	197	150	13
June	115	112	5
July	150	184	13
August	115	181	13
September	76	133	10
October	134	104	4
November	126	110	9
December	91	103	14
1965 Total	1,475	1,510	119
1964 Total	1,561	1,569	162
1963 Total	1,762	1,583	191
1962 Total	1,885	1,365	138
1961 Total	1,048	1,209	126
1960 Total	1,179	1,153	96
1959 Total	1,179	1,053	129
1958 Total	1,153	934	103
1957 Total	1,252	815	142

PORTLAND ORDERS NEW PUMPER

The Portland Fire District Commissioners have signed a contract with the Young Fire Equipment Corporation of Buffalo, New York, for delivery of a new triple combination pumper in August 1966. The apparatus will have a 750 g.p.m. single stage, midship mounted pump, a 1,000 gallon booster tank, two electric reels and a 1,200 watt Power Pack. The chassis is to be a Ford C-950 having a 534 cubic inch, 276 horsepower engine. Total bid price of the new apparatus was \$20,383.00 and it will replace a 1944 Buffalo Fire Appliance Company custom unit.

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April 1, 1966

USE YOUR BASE STATION

Fire Departments having base stations are requested to sign all apparatus "in service" and "out of service" over such stations at all times. In so doing, valuable air time will be saved, and the dispatchers at the Control Center will be relieved of having to make separate written entries in the radio log as each piece of apparatus leaves or returns to quarters.

The Control Center personnel are faced with an ever increasing burden of radio and telephone calls concerning both Police and Fire Service emergencies as well as routine business. We can help by making one report over a base station instead of several transmissions as each of our fire units moves into a different situation. Few of us realize the tremendous amount of communications traffic that is handled by the dispatchers at Mayville, and our efforts to reduce the number of radio messages while still transmitting the same information will help considerably to increase efficiency and result in much better response to our communications.

IN MEMORIAM

We are deeply saddened by the death of our Advisory Board member and former County Fire Coordinator, Raymond H. Hughes, on March 16th. Chief Hughes was one of the founders of the Kiantone Independent Fire Department, and his devotion to the County Fire Service was unequalled in its history. He fostered out Mutual Aid Plan and generously gave of his time and counsel when we needed assistance with our many problems. We have lost a beloved friend; a true and faithful fireman.

BOARD TO SPONSOR SEMINAR

At the March meeting of the County Fire Advisory Board, it was voted to sponsor a Fire Officers Seminar to be held this Fall or early next Spring. The Seminar will be a one day affair devoted to training and a discussion of administration and leadership in the Fire Service. A similiar conference was held at the Fluvanna Fire Headquarters several years ago, and at that time there was a unanimous request for another Seminar from nearly every Fire Department officer in the County.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS

The grass fire season is upon us, and the other day one of our County Fire Departments received a call from an excited woman who said, "There is a small grass fire in my back yard. It won't be necessary for any firemen to come but you had better send a fire truck!" Another Department recently got a call from a seemingly very calm woman who said, "I have a small fire in my house. Please send a small fire truck!" Needless to say several firemen responded to the grass fire and two big trucks went to the house fire.

A Fire Department was called for a house fire. When the dispatcher asked the location, the caller said, "In the kitchen," and hung up!

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May 1, 1966

TO CONDUCT OFFICER'S SEMINAR

The State Division of Fire Safety has offered to conduct a one day seminar for Chief Officers of Chautauqua County on Sunday, June 19th. Arrangements have been made to hold the seminar at the Fredonia Fire Headquarters, and provisions are being made to serve a noon luncheon for those attending. One Chief Officer from each Department is requested to be present, and Deputy Coordinator Neil McNeight will advise the Chiefs of the full particulars in the near future.

Mr. Anthony R. Granito, Supervisor of Fire Training, Division of Fire Safety, is to be the instructor and leader of the seminar. The day will be devoted to a discussion and the mechanics of setting up training programs in your own Department. Similiar seminars have been held in other counties of our State and have been widely acclaimed by all Chief Fire Officers. Mr. Granito, who is a Fire Department Officer and has been associated with the Fire Service for many years, is an outstanding authority on the subject of fire training. He holds a Bachelor of Science and Masters Degree in Education and has been active in fire training seminars in both our State and in New England. We are most fortunate to have this opportunity in our own County, and no Chief Officer can afford to miss attending the program.

MUTUAL AID DRILLS?

We can't believe that Mutual Aid drills are unpopular, yet we are not aware that any have been held during the past four months. Some thought should be given to this means of training, and Chief Officers are encouraged to work out drills with their neighboring firemen.

It would be well to plan one drill each month and select for operations those fire hazards that are of peculiar nature or highly combustible. Plans should be made in cooperation with your Battalion Coordinator or the County Coordinator so that these men can assist you with your communications and general overall planning. We hope you will try to hold at least one Mutual Aid drill during the coming Summer months.

STAY ON YOUR RADIO

Time and again we hear base stations or other mobile radios calling a particular fire unit that has gone "in service" and should immediately answer the call, but there is dead silence! This situation has been noted particularly when a unit is in operation at the scene of a fire or emergency. We must stay with our radios at all times as many important messages are frequently given during operations and no coordination of activity can be achieved unless we pay attention to our communications. Manpower is never so critical that we can't keep at least one man on one mobile radio at all times when our apparatus is in service.

If the problem is not being able to hear the radio during pumping operations or when the engines are running, then you should give consideration to installing an outside speaker directed at the operator.

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June 1, 1966

ATTEND CHIEFS' CONVENTION

It is gratifying to note that five members of our County Fire Service attended the recent Annual Convention of the New York State Fire Chiefs Association held at the Concord Hotel near Monticello. Those present were: Chief George C. Tadt, Jr. and Past Chief Lyle C. Beamish from Fredonia, Chief Virgil L. Eggleston from Jamestown, Chief John R. Farnsworth and your Advisory Board Chairman from Lakewood.

Over 1,400 registered for the Convention this year; an all time record. The program was outstanding with several eminent speakers and workshops, and twenty-four manufacturers of fire fighting products put on an impressive display of exhibits. Chief Charles R. Dorman, formerly of Jamestown and now Assistant Director of the Division of Fire Safety, arranged the educational program which was the finest ever presented to the Association.

NEIGHBORS ARE GUESTS OF BOARD

At the last Advisory Board meeting on May 19th, the Cattaraugus County Fire Advisory Board were the guests of your Board. Our neighbors turned out in force with twenty members, including their County Fire Coordinator, and some of the guests drove nearly ninety miles to attend our meeting. We wish to express our appreciation for the great interest shown by these men in coming to our County.

During the meeting a discussion was held on the problem of inter-county radio communications. Several pages of requirements for Class B and Class C Fire Departments from the New York Fire Insurance Rating Organization were passed out to all members and guests. Deputy Coordinator Neil McNeight reported on the Chief's Seminar to be held at the Fredonia Fire Headquarters on Sunday, June 19th. It is imperative that one Chief, or his assistant, plan to participate in this Seminar, and letters have been sent to all Chief Officers with full details of the one day affair.

Following the Board meeting, our guests toured the Control Center and the radio communications maintenance shop.

CITY ORDERS NEW AERIAL

The City of Jamestown has placed an order with the Maxim Motor Division of the Seagrave Corporation, Middleboro, Massachusetts, for a new custom 100 foot aerial ladder truck at the total bid price of \$44,888.50. The apparatus will be powered by a 325 horsepower Waukesha engine having 817 cubic inch displacement.

Some of the features include a 2,500 watt push button electric starting, semi-portable generator, a fixed, permanently mounted deluge gun with tips up to 2 inch size, power steering, full air brakes, and twenty-two enclosed compartments including full enclosure of all ground ladders. The new unit will replace a 65 foot aerial truck stationed at the City Hall Fire Headquarters. Delivery is expected in August 1967.

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July 1, 1966

PRINCIPLES OF LEADERSHIP

Leadership is made up of many facets and among the most important is that of communication. Sometimes in the Fire Service the basic meaning of the word communications is overlooked. Communications involves the exchange of thoughts, ideas, messages from one individual to another. Communications is not a one way street, and the communicator must have a "feed back" to be sure that his message has been received correctly. This is important on the fire ground and in everyday exchange of information between an officer and his men.

It is unfortunate that the Fire Service generally has overlooked the tremendous wealth of material available in the field of business management regarding the principles of good communications. The Fire Service, while developing more elaborate and expensive pieces of machinery to combat fires, in many cases has tended to overlook the development of the one resource within their department which will not raise the monetary costs, yet it can bring about increased productivity on the fire ground as well as in the fire station. That is the human resource.

Effective leaders must be able to communicate. There is no such thing as a born communicator. One develops the talent by just plain hard work and perseverance. A good communicator is not "I" centered, but is always thinking of the other fellow. Effective communications means increased productivity and, hence, profit to the business community. Therefore, much research has been done in the field of business management regarding communications.

The Fire Service is big business, and it must develop talented communicators equal to the business world.

OLDEST VOLUNTEER COMPANY

What is the name of the oldest volunteer fire company in the United States and where is it located? This question is often asked by the public as well as firemen.

The oldest volunteer fire company in the United States in continuous operation is Relief Engine Company No. 1 of Mount Holly, New Jersey. It was organized July 11, 1752, and has been in operation ever since.

The original name of the company was Britannia Fire Company. Its first "injun" was purchased and delivered to the Company in November 1765. In 1805, the Company changed its name to Relief Company, by which it is known to this day---210 years after its organization.

SUMMER RECESS FOR BOARD

In keeping with a policy of previous years, your County Fire Advisory Board will not meet during the months of July and August. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday, September 15th, at the Court House in Mayville. You are welcome at all meetings.

Raymond C. Taylor
County Coordinator

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TAYLOR APPOINTED COORDINATOR

Raymond C. Taylor has been appointed County Fire Coordinator by the Board of Supervisors, and his official duties began on July 16th following the resignation of G. Lawrence Hodges who served in this office for the past eight months. Coordinator Taylor is a full time employee of B & E Electric, Inc. of Jamestown, and he has been the Third Battalion Fire Coordinator since 1963. At present, Ray Taylor is a Captain of the Celoron Fire Department, and prior to moving to the Celoron area, he was a Chief Officer of the Panama Fire Department for eight years.

Our new Coordinator resides at 35 Louisa Avenue (West Ellicott), Jamestown, New York, and his telephone number is 487-0212.

FIRE RECORD OF SHOPPING CENTERS

Shopping center fires are the subject of the newest report in a series of Occupancy Fire Record studies published by the National Fire Protection Association. A by-product of the automobile age, generally on land owned and developed by a single individual or corporation, the shopping center could be a model of good construction and fire protection, the new N.F.P.A. report points out. However, fire loss records show otherwise. Although regional shopping centers--those with more than 40 stores--thus far have been relatively free of major fire losses "the smaller the shopping center the more vulnerable it is to fire" seems to be the rule.

Lack of sprinkler protection is shown by experience to be the largest single factor in size of loss, the N.F.P.A. report states. Sprinklers are an ideal solution to fire protection problems at shopping centers, since they will extinguish fires and give alarm when no one is around. Fire protection faults in shopping centers which have burned have most often included open attic and basement areas which extend above and below all stores in a building; combustible or flimsy partitions between stores, and suspended combustible ceilings which have no sprinkler protection; covered walkways in front of stores, built with concealed spaces in the roofing which lead to the open attic areas; lack of fire hydrants or street mains of adequate size for effective fire fighting; and lack of fire detection devices, watchman service, or fire alarm boxes. Most common causes of fires in the 125 cases examined were electrical faults; combustibles in contact with heaters or flues; smoking and matches; incendiarism; fluorescent lamps; and trash disposal.

Food stores are by far the most frequent victims of fires in shopping center complexes, followed by drug and variety stores. Half of the shopping center fires occur between 10:00 P.M. and 4:00 A.M., while fewer than 8 per cent are during the peak business hours. Copies of the Occupancy Fire Record of Shopping Centers are available at 75 cents each from the National Fire Protection Association, 60 Batterymarch Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. We suggest that you get a copy.

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A LOOK AT FIRE PREVENTION

It's never too late to review your Fire Prevention efforts of the past year, but there is precious time left to plan our activities for Fire Prevention Week which, this year, is observed during the week of October 9-15. If your prevention campaign is going to be anything more than putting up a few posters, you should have began thinking about what you want to do, how you want it done and who can be recruited to do the job many months ago.

An idea gaining increasing acceptance among members of the Fire Service active in Fire Prevention is the concept that the fire department should not tackle the entire job of Fire Prevention on their own. It is being suggested that the Fire Service take on the role of coordinator or "prime contractor" in Fire Prevention work and engage the interest and effort of the many groups in each community to carry the ball on specific activities. This has many advantages. Manpower is limited only by our ability to sell other groups on the idea of getting behind your Fire Prevention work. It is entirely possible that additional funds or donations of materials in lieu of funds can be obtained through cooperating groups. The members of other organizations become more fire conscious themselves if they assist you in contacting the public with the fire safety message. In locations where this method has been successfully applied, Fire Prevention has become a community project, not something the fire department jealously reserves as part of a private domain.

Some organizations have their own activities in the area of public service. Many others are in need of meaningful projects to give purpose to their existence and a challenge to their members. It would certainly be worthwhile to contact the civic clubs, fraternal organizations, youth groups, church groups and businessmen in your area to solicit their help.

Be sure you have a plan before approaching anyone. Merely asking for help will be of little benefit if you do not know where to apply the assistance if it is offered. Examine your annual Fire Prevention activities and determine which functions could be "packaged" as individual projects, preferably on a continuing annual basis. For each packaged project you should have a reasonably definite idea of how many people, how much time and what materials will be required for a successful operation. With this information you can make firm plans and commitments.

We feel there is everything to gain and nothing to lose in trying this approach to Fire Prevention. Our goal is to bring the message of fire safety to as many of our citizens as possible in a form which will be meaningful to them and cause them to take action for their own protection. What better way can this be done than by enlisting the help of many different people in many different groups to assist us in our most important work? Fire Prevention pays in many ways, keep it going.

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OFFICERS SEMINAR PLANNED

At the September meeting of the Advisory Board, it was announced by Chief Virgil L. Eggleston that a Fire Officers Seminar will be held on April 30, 1967 at the Fluvanna Fire Headquarters. This affair is to be similiar to a Seminar held several years ago at the same location which was very well attended and widely acclaimed. The Seminar Committee has been working diligently to secure eminent speakers for the occasion, and more information will be provided for you as the program develops. Please keep this date in mind as an opportunity not to miss.

It was also reported at the Board meeting that 5,500 "Sparky" coloring books had been purchased by the County for a limited distribution to the elementary schools in an effort to promote Fire Prevention among children. If such distribution proves worthy and of interest to local Chief Officers, it is possible that the program may be expanded next year to include all grade school children in the County.

A discussion was held in view of promoting the County house numbering system which has been completed in a number of towns and will be of great help to the Fire Service in locating fire and emergency calls.

FIRE CHIEFS' CODE

In the State of Minnesota, all Chief Officers, both paid and volunteer, take the following oath upon assuming office:

"My fundamental duty as a Fire Chief is to serve mankind; to protect life and property against the onslaught of unfriendly fires; to administrate judiciously and create an awareness in the minds of our citizens of the inherent danger associated with careless or negligent use of fire and the elements that may cause fire.

"I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger; develop self-restraint and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. I will be honest in thought and deed, both in my personal and official life and will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Confidences entrusted to me will be zealously guarded unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

"I will never act officiously, nor permit prejudice, animosity or friendship to influence my decisions in the enforcement of laws appertaining to my profession nor tolerate compromise with negligence, carelessness or dishonesty.

"I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the Fire Service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession---the prevention and suppression of fire."

REMEMBER a good public relations program leads to a good Fire Prevention program. Use it and reduce the number of fires in your community.